

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A connector, comprising:
2 a housing, including:
3 a plurality of terminal receiving chambers in which metal
4 terminals are accommodated; and
5 a plurality of elastic retaining arm portions for respectively
6 retaining the metal terminals;
7 a front holder, attached to the housing in a completely-retaining
8 position through a provisionally-retaining position;
9 wherein the front holder prevents the elastic deformation of
10 the elastic retaining arm portions in the completely-retaining position; and
11 wherein the front holder allows the elastic deformation of the
12 elastic retaining arm portions in the provisionally-retaining position;
13 a provisionally-retaining member, retaining the front holder to the
14 housing in the provisionally-retaining position; and
15 a completely-retaining member, retaining the front holder to the
16 housing in the completely-retaining position,
17 wherein the completely-retaining member is provided at one region so
18 as to retain the housing and the front holder, and includes an operation portion
19 for releasing the retaining of the housing and the holder, and the operating
20 portion is disposed so as to be exposed to the exterior.

1 2 The connector as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 completely-retaining member includes a center retaining member which is

3 provided generally at central portions of the housing and front holder.

1 3. The connector as set forth in claim 2, wherein the center retaining
2 member includes a first retaining portion provided at one of the housing and
3 the front holder, and a resilient arm lock portion provided at the other of the
4 housing and the front holder;

5 wherein the resilient arm lock portion, includes;

6 an elastically-deformable arm which is fixed to the other of
7 the housing and the front holder at one end of the arm;

8 a second retaining portion which is formed on and projecting
9 from a free end portion of the arm; and

10 the operating portion which is provided on the free end of the
11 arm, and makes the arm elastically deformed so as to displace the second
12 retaining portion into a lock released position; and

13 wherein the second retaining portion of the resilient arm lock portion
14 is engaged with the first retaining portion in the completely-retaining position.

1 4. The connector as set forth in claim 3, wherein the second retaining
2 portion of the resilient arm lock portion is engaged with the first retaining
3 portion in the provisionally-retaining position to prevent the front holder from
4 moving from the provisionally-retaining position to the completely-retaining
5 position.

1 5. The connector as set forth in claim 3, wherein the first retaining
2 portion is provided on the housing; and

3 wherein the resilient arm lock portion is provided on the front holder.

1 6. The connector as set forth in claim 5, wherein an insertion hole is
2 formed in the housing;

3 wherein the insertion hole is used for removing a mold when injection
4 molding the first retaining portion of the housing; and

5 wherein the resilient arm lock portion is inserted in the insertion hole
6 when the front holder is disposed in the completely-retaining position.

1 7. The connector as set forth in claim 3, wherein the second retaining
2 portion of the arm includes;

3 a first face which is disposed close to the free end of the arm,
4 and is slanted relative to a direction of extending of the arm; and

5 a second face which is disposed close to the fixed end of the
6 arm, and is perpendicular to the direction of extending of the arm; and

7 wherein the first retaining portion includes;

8 a third face which is slanted, and abuts against the first face
9 of the second retaining portion in the provisionally-retaining position; and

10 a fourth face which is generally parallel to the second face of
11 the retaining portion, and abuts against the second face in the
12 completely-retaining position.

1 8. The connector as set forth in claim 3, wherein the first retaining
2 portion includes a pair of opposed first projections formed respectively on a
3 pair of ribs extending parallel to the direction of extending of the resilient arm

4 lock portion; and

5 wherein the second retaining portion includes a pair of second
6 projections formed on the arm.

1 9. The connector as set forth in claim 1, wherein the completely-fitted
2 condition of the front holder and the housing is released by displacing the
3 operating portion outwardly.

1 10. A connector, comprising:

2 a housing, including:

3 a plurality of terminal receiving chambers in which metal
4 terminals are accommodated; and

5 a plurality of elastic retaining arm portions for respectively
6 retaining the metal terminals;

7 a front holder, inserted into the housing from a fitting side of the
8 housing, and attached to the housing in a completely-retaining position through
9 a provisionally-retaining position;

10 wherein the front holder prevents the elastic deformation of
11 the elastic retaining arm portions in the completely-retaining position; and

12 wherein the front holder allows the elastic deformation of the
13 elastic retaining arm portions in the provisionally-retaining position;

14 a provisionally-retaining member, retaining the front holder in the
15 housing in the provisionally-retaining position; and

16 a completely-retaining member, retaining the front holder in the
17 housing in the completely-retaining position;

18 wherein the provisionally-retaining member and the
19 completely-retaining member are provided at outside of a terminal receiving
20 area where the plurality of terminal receiving chambers are provided as viewed
21 from a first direction in which the front holder is inserted into the housing;

22 wherein the provisionally-retaining member includes;

23 a pair of side retaining members which are respectively
24 provided at both outsides of the terminal receiving area in a second direction
25 perpendicular to the first direction; and

26 a center retaining member which is provided at one outside
27 of the terminal receiving area in a third direction perpendicular to both the first
28 direction and the second direction; and

29 wherein the completely-retaining member is formed by the center
30 retaining member disposed generally at a central position of the terminal
31 receiving area in the second direction.

1 11. The connector as set forth in claim 10, wherein each of the side
2 retaining members includes;

3 a guide hole which is formed in one of the housing and the
4 front holder, and extends in the first direction; and

5 a retaining projection which is provided at the other of the
6 housing and the front holder, and is slidably inserted in the guide hole; and

7 wherein the retaining projection abuts against an end face of the
8 guide hole to retain the front holder in the provisionally-retaining position.

1 12. The connector as set forth in claim 11, wherein the guide hole is

- 2 formed in the front holder; and
- 3 wherein the retaining projection is formed on the housing.